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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	
Jacques BOURDON et al.	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner: Unassigned
(Corresponds to PCT/FR00/00166	)	
International Filing Date: 25 January 2000	)	
For: METHOD AND INSTALLATION OR	)	
SEPARATING AND PURIFYING	)	
DIPHENOLS IN THE PHENOL AND	)	
PHENOL DERIVATIVES INDUSTRY	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Kindly replace claims 1-11 and 13-20 as follows.

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1. (Amended) A process for separation and purification of a crude mixture comprising hydroquinone and resorcinol, optionally tars, and optionally catechol, in which process the crude mixture is first subjected to a series of distillation stages comprising:
    - (i) optionally distilling in stage (I) [designed] to produce catechol as a distillation top product,
    - (ii) obtaining the distillation bottom product from (i) or the crude mixture in the absence of stage (I) to a distillation stage (II) designed to produce, as

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